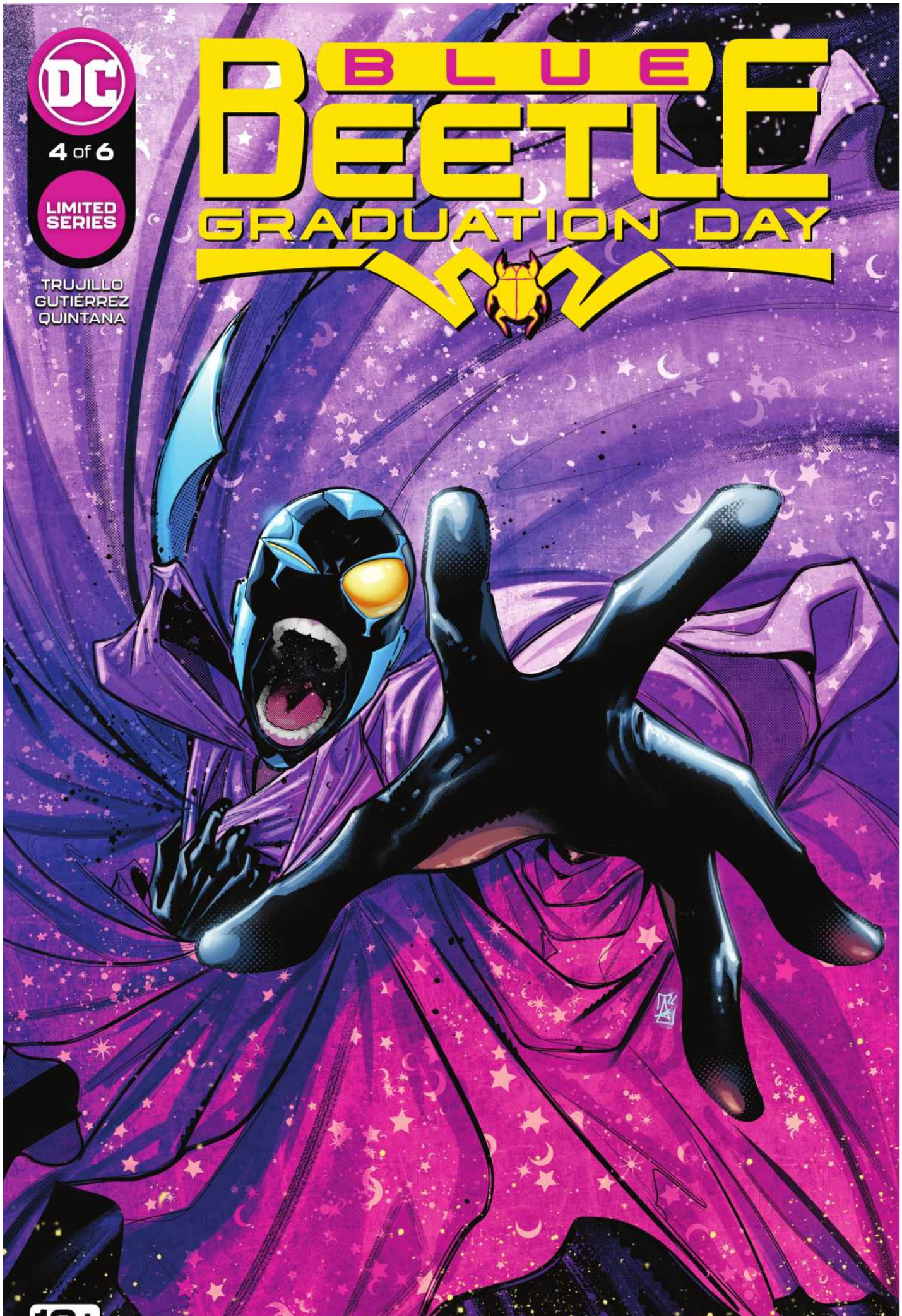
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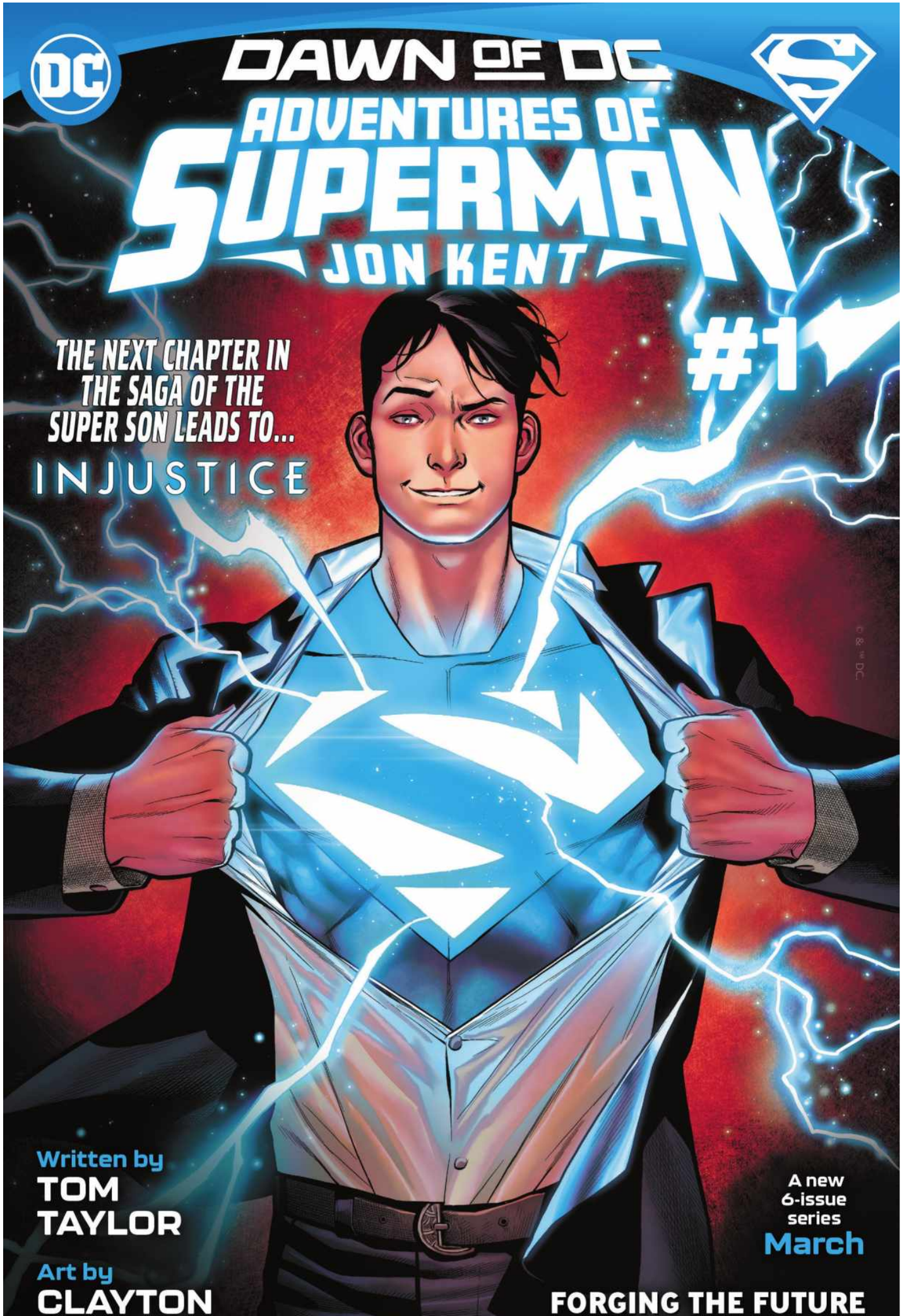
BLUE
BEETLE
GRADUATION DAY


DAWN OF DC
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JON KENT
#1
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INJUSTICE
Written by
TOM TAYLOR
Art by
CLAYTON
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March
FORGING THE FUTURE

SENSORS AREN'T PICKING ANYTHING UP, SIS.
I'M AFRAID WE MAY HAVE LOST THE GREEN BEETLE...
DON'T YOU MEAN "NITIDA," TEDDY? IT'S ADORABLE THEY ALL HAVE THEIR OWN LITTLE NAMES.
AND IT'S NO WONDER WE LOST HER. I KNEW YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE BY NOT INSTALLING A POLYTECHRON SENSOR ARRAY.
THIS BUG IS IN DIRE NEED OF AN UPGRADE.
UGH! POLYTECHRONS ARE YOUR ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING, VICTORIA--!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
BASED ON WHAT STARFIRE SAID OF THE HORIZON, WE'RE DEALING WITH A TOTALLY UNKNOWN FACTION OF THE REACH!

WELL IT'S ONE THING TO HAVE A KAIJU-SIZED METAMORPH ON THE LOOSE. THEY'LL TURN UP AT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME, I'M SURE.
BUT IT'S JAIME I'M THINKING ABOUT THE MOST. HE'S PUTTING SO MUCH PRESSURE ON HIMSELF.
HE CONFIDED IN ME HE HASN'T BEEN IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF HIS OWN SCARAB. KHAJI DA COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN ON HIM IN HIS FIGHT WITH DYNASTES!
THE HORIZON MUST HAVE SENT THAT SIGNAL FROM SPACE, NOT THE REACH! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT IT SCRAMBLED JAIME'S SCARAB SOMEHOW?
HE'S BRAVE, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT, BUT I WONDER HOW LONG IT WILL BE BEFORE IT'S JAIME WE'RE TRACKING DOWN.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! DON'T EVEN JOKE ABOUT THAT.
I WASN'T JOKING! THAT SCARAB AND ALL ALIEN TECHNOLOGY POSE A THREAT TO THIS PLANET.
THAT'S WHY I'VE MADE IT MY LIFE'S MISSION TO STUDY IT, TO ADAPT IT TO BENEFIT MANKIND.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE JAIME'S CORRUPTED--
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW JAIME REYES! HE'S A GOOD KID WITH A BIG HEART. I CAN ALWAYS TRUST HIM TO DO THE RIGHT THING...

"...NO MATTER WHAT!"
BRENDA, PACO, LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT...
...YOU DROVE OVERNIGHT TO SEE ME BECAUSE YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY.
MMHHMMM THZ RITE!
A CRISIS SO URGENT THAT YOU NEEDED THE HELP OF THE BLUE BEETLE
YES! IT'S ALL IN THE TEXT MESSAGE WE SENT YOU! WHY ARE YOU BEING LIKE THIS?
THEN YOU PULL UP TO MY HOME IN YOUR VAN, AND WHO DO I SEE BUT ONE OF MY VILLAINS! ONE OF THE LAST PEOPLE I WANT TO SEE!
FADEAWAY!
UMMM... HI?
DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE THINK THIS IS WEIRD?!
PASS THE HOT SAUCE!

YOU BROUGHT MY ARCHFOE TO THE PLACE WHERE I LIVE?
"ARCHFOE"? STOP BEING DRAMATIC, DUDE!
YOU FOUGHT, LIKE, HOW MANY TIMES-- ONCE? BRENDA AND I TALKED IT OVER AND WE TRUST FADEAWAY!
BESIDES, THEY PROMISED THEY WOULDN'T TRY TO KILL YOU. WE'RE GOOD!
YOU DO A REALLY BAD JOB OF KEEPING YOUR SECRET IDENTITY SECRET, SO I FOUND YOUR FRIENDS ON LEXTOK!
I EXPLAINED MY DESPERATE SITUATION, AND AFTER SOME CONVINCING, THEY WERE MORE THAN WILLING TO PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH THE ONE AND ONLY BLUE BEETLE!
TECHNICALLY THERE'VE BEEN THREE OF US.
OH.
FADEAWAY HERE NEEDS YOUR HELP, AND YOU NEED OUR HELP!
THAT'S WHY WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR PARENTS SENT YOU TO PALMERA CITY. YOU SHOULD HAVE APPLIED FOR COLLEGES LIKE WE DID!
YEAH, YOU USED TO HAVE SUCH BIG DREAMS!
WHAT HAPPENED TO BECOMING A DENTIST?
CAN WE JUST FOCUS ON THE SUPER-VILLAIN IN THE ROOM?
PLEASE?

SO HERE'S MY WHOLE DEAL...
MY NAME IS LEO LAMONT, AND MY GRANDPA IS A SUPER-VILLAIN.
LIKE, A REAL ONE!
"HE WAS THE ORIGINAL FADEAWAY MAN. HE WORE THE MAGIC CLOAK OF CAGLIOSTRO, WHICH GRANTED HIM ALL SORTS OF POWERS: INVISIBILITY, INTANGIBILITY, FLIGHT--THE CLASSICS!
"MOSTLY HE USED IT TO ROB PEOPLE.
"HE ALSO USED TO FIGHT DUDES LIKE BATMAN, GREEN ARROW, HAWKMAN-- GRANDPA REALLY HATES HAWKMAN!
"ANYWAY, ONE DAY THE CLOAK SAID 'NAH' AND ATTACHED ITSELF TO ME!
"AND I COULDN'T TAKE IT OFF! I STILL CAN'T!
SO YEAH, I'VE BEEN STEALING A FEW THINGS, BUT FOR A GOOD REASON.
ALL OF GRANDPA'S ARTIFACTS AND MYSTIC CRAP, THEY'RE TAKEN FROM PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES THEY REALLY BELONG TO.
I HAVE HIS JOURNAL LISTING ALL OF HIS SHADY CUSTOMERS, AND I'M TRYING TO SET THINGS RIGHT!
WILL YOU HELP ME, JAIME?
HM. OKAY. COUNT ME IN.
¡NO SE TE OLVIDE, JAIME! ¡ESTA TARDE TIENES TURNO!
OOF. COUNT ME IN AFTER WORK, THAT IS!

SO YOU LIVE ABOVE A DINER? FOR REAL?
IT SMELLS LIKE CHORIZO IN HERE! AWESOME!
GUYS! CAN WE PLEASE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
SO... I CAN PHASE MYSELF THROUGH ANYTHING NO PROBLEM.
BUT PHASING OTHER STUFF? THAT'S A LITTLE ADVANCED FOR ME.
I'LL NEED YOUR HELP GETTING OUT WITH THE ARTIFACT.
HOLD ON. WHEN YOU USE YOUR POWERS YOU'RE, LIKE... NAKED?
WHAT? NO! MY CLOTHES PHASE WITH ME, THANK YOU. IT'S EVERYTHING ELSE!
NOT LONG AGO, GRANDPA STOLE THE "BAG OF TRIX"! IT USED TO BELONG TO A WANNABE SUPERHERO NAMED JACQUELINE PEMBERTON, A.K.A. GIMMIX...
THIS BAG SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO HER FAMILY, BUT INSTEAD MY GRANDPA GOT IT AND SOLD IT ON THE BLACK MARKET!
THE PERSON WHO BOUGHT THE BAG FROM HIM MUST HAVE KNOWN IT WAS STOLEN!
BUT HOW DO WE FIND THIS BAG?
DON'T WORRY--I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT IS! IT LOOKS LIKE THE BAG OF TRIX WAS SOLD RIGHT HERE IN PALMERA CITY!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE NAMED VICTORIA KORD?

KORD INDUSTRIES
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY!
THERE ARE CAMERAS AND SECURITY GUARDS ON EVERY FLOOR OF KORD INDUSTRIES...
NOT TO MENTION THAT TWO OF THE SMARTEST PEOPLE ON EARTH LIVE HERE!
EVEN IF WE CAN GET THIS PURSE, THEN WHAT?
GETTING OUT IS GOING TO BE JUST AS HARD AS GETTING IN!
I HAVE A SECURITY BADGE TED GAVE ME, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN ACCESS THE TOP LEVELS.
AND THAT'S WHERE VICTORIA'S LAB IS.
XOLO

ARE YOU SURE WE CAN'T JUST ASK VICTORIA TO, Y'KNOW...GIVE IT BACK?
ABSOLUTELY NOT. I'VE TRIED THAT BEFORE WITH OTHERS AND IT NEVER WORKS.
RICH PEOPLE HATE GIVING STUFF BACK. ESPECIALLY STOLEN STUFF! FIRST SHE'D DENY SHE EVEN HAD IT, THEN SHE'D TURN ME OVER TO THE D.E.O. OR THE DOOM PATROL--OR WHATEVER!
AND IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, SHE WON'T EVEN KNOW IT WAS US!
I WONDER WHAT STARFIRE WOULD THINK OF THIS. SHE LEFT THIS MORNING TO SEARCH THE TITANS ARCHIVES FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE HORIZON...
STARFIRE WOULD WANT YOU TO HELP OUT FADEAWAY!
DON'T LET HER DOWN!
I'LL MEET YOU UPSTAIRS AFTER I DISABLE THE SECURITY SYSTEMS. DON'T WORRY!
I'M SUPER WORRIED!
...BUT IF PACO AND BRENDA TRUST YOU, I TRUST YOU.

WHOA! BUD, YOU SURE DID A NUMBER ON THIS PLACE!
SHH, PACO!
REMEMBER, IF ANYONE ASKS WE'RE INTERNS AT KORD INDUSTRIES, AND I'M SHOWING YOU TWO AROUND.
YOU KNOW IF YOU REALLY WERE AN INTERN HERE YOU COULD GET COLLEGE CREDIT.
¡NO MANCHES, BRENDA!
NOW WHAT TO BREAK FIRST?
OH THERE WE GO!
OKAY. FADEAWAY SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THE SECURITY CAMERAS BY NOW. DOES EVERYONE KNOW THEIR PART?
I THINK SO.
YEAH!
BOOP!

I'M NOT TRYING TO COME DOWN ON YOU, YA KNOW? WE'RE JUST LOOKING OUT FOR YOU, JAIME.
I KNOW, I KNOW, AND I APPRECIATE IT...
I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M READY FOR COLLEGE YET. MAYBE EVER?
WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THIS, WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT.
THERE'S A LOT TO CATCH UP ON.
GOD I'VE MISSED YOU GUYS!
PACO!
FOCUS!
SORRY.

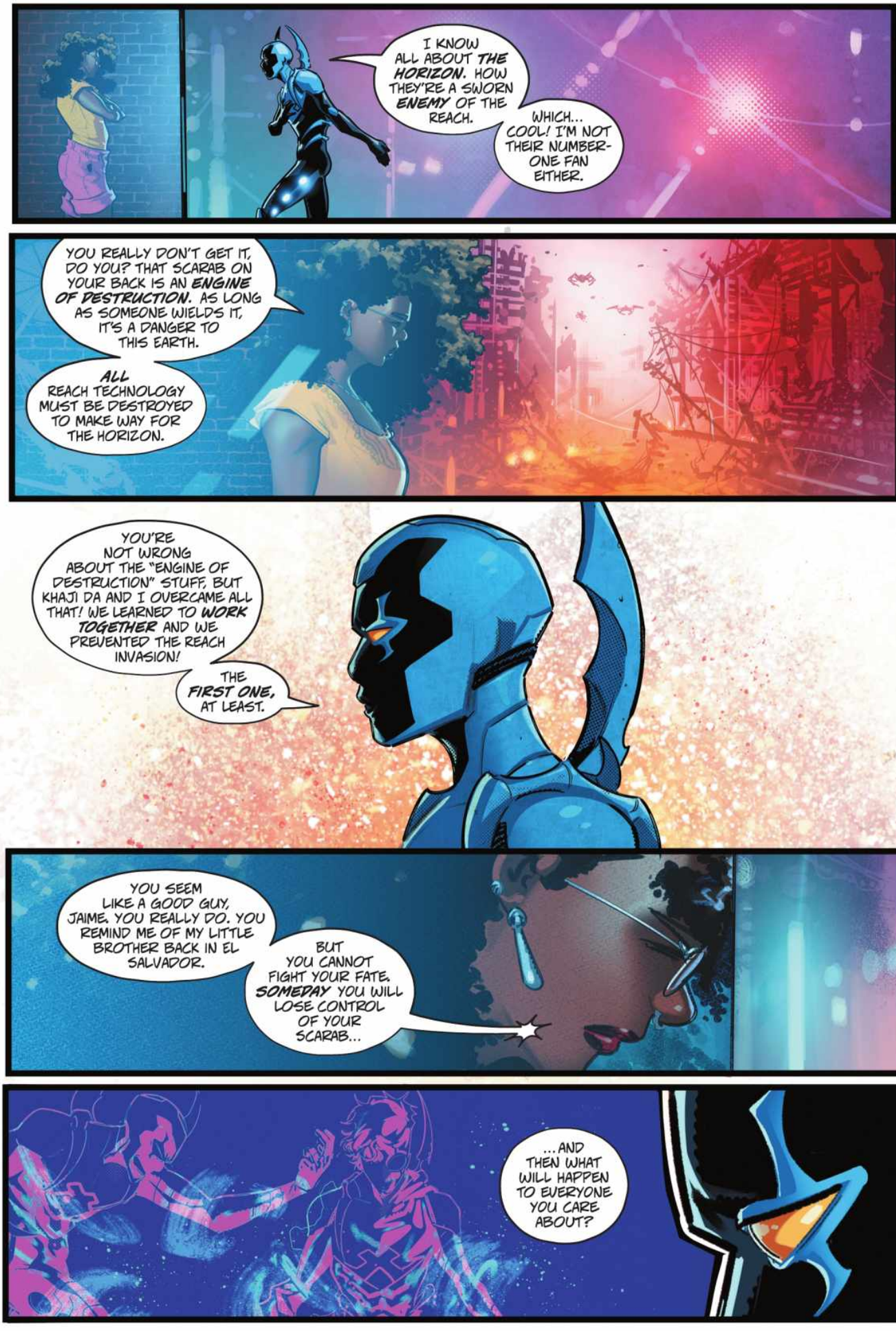
WISH ME LUCK?
HNNG!
I JUST HOPE FADEAWAY WAS ABLE TO DISABLE THE...
NEVER MIND.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID NO ONE WOULD NOTICE.
THERE YOU ARE!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO HURRY!
I JUST HOPE WE DON'T GET CAUGHT. I CAN'T AFFORD TO REPLACE ALL OF THIS STUFF ON AN UNPAID INTERN'S SALARY.
I SCOPED OUT THE LAB AND WE HAVE ONE COMPLICATION TO OUR PERFECT ESCAPE.
AND WHAT'S

HER.
XIOMARA!

IS THIS WHERE THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING YOU?

I'M GUESSING YOU'RE UPSET, KHAJI. WE'RE SAFE. THE FORCE FIELD IS UP.

I WAS WONDERING WHEN I'D SEE YOU AGAIN.


I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE HORIZON. HOW THEY'RE A SWORN ENEMY OF THE REACH.
WHICH... COOL! I'M NOT THEIR NUMBER-ONE FAN EITHER.
YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? THAT SCARAB ON YOUR BACK IS AN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION. AS LONG AS SOMEONE WIELDS IT, IT'S A DANGER TO THIS EARTH.
ALL REACH TECHNOLOGY MUST BE DESTROYED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE HORIZON.
YOU'RE NOT WRONG ABOUT THE "ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION" STUFF, BUT KHAJI DA AND I OVERCAME ALL THAT! WE LEARNED TO WORK TOGETHER AND WE PREVENTED THE REACH INVASION!
THE FIRST ONE, AT LEAST.
YOU SEEM LIKE A GOOD GUY, JAIME. YOU REALLY DO. YOU REMIND ME OF MY LITTLE BROTHER BACK IN EL SALVADOR.
BUT YOU CANNOT FIGHT YOUR FATE. SOMEDAY YOU WILL LOSE CONTROL OF YOUR SCARAB...
...AND THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO EVERYONE YOU CARE ABOUT?

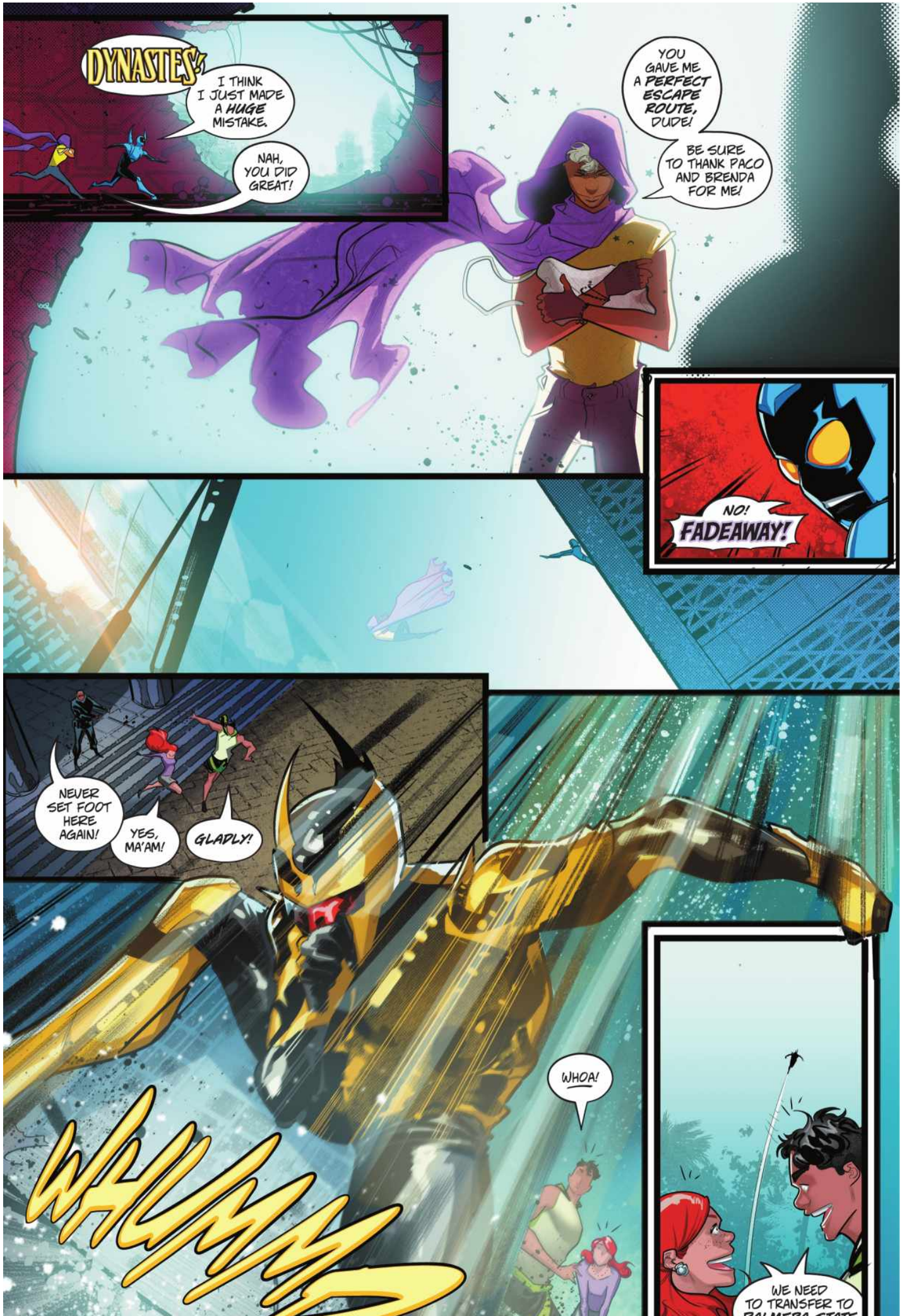
SO...
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO AGAIN?
WE WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL. WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
AND WHAT'S THE SIGNAL?
FREEZE!
DON'T MOVE!
¡AY GÜEY!
I'M SORRY-- IT WAS US! WE JUST PRESSED THE ELEVATOR STOP BUTTON AND WE THOUGHT...
EXIT THE ELEVATOR NOW!
THIS FLOOR IS CLEAR. KEEP WORKING UPWARD!
YES, MA'AM!
WE'LL GET OUT OF YOUR WAY.
TP TP TP TP TP TP

THAT'S THE SIGNAL. SECURITY IS DISTRACTED.
BZZ BZZ
I'LL WORK ON... THAT, WHILE YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS WRAP UP.
I PROMISE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY, XIOMARA.
AT FIRST, KHAJI DA TRIED TO INFLUENCE MY DECISION-MAKING, BUT I SHOWED HIM A BETTER WAY. I'LL PROVE TO YOU I WON'T BECOME WHAT YOU THINK. WE CAN WORK TOGETHER.
YOU'RE LUCKY. IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO THINK IT OVER.
BUT I CAN'T DENY WHAT I'VE SEEN--WHAT MY BEETLE IS TELLING ME. THE FEELING, THE FEAR OVERWHELMS ME.
BZZZZT!
BINGO!
I WAS LIKE YOU ONCE, XIOMARA. BUT I LEARNED--AND MY SCARAB LEARNED COMPASSION.
WE'RE BOTH MORE THAN A WEAPON.

OH MY GOD.
WHAT-- WHAT IS ALL OF THIS STUFF?
NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.
DO YOU BELIEVE ME THAT THIS VICTORIA LADY IS BAD NEWS YET?
ALL I KNOW IS I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF ALL THAT HEAVY DUTY ALIEN TECH.
THAT MUST BE THE BAG!
IT LOOKS... NORMAL?

DON'T LET LOOKS FOOL YOU. IF MY GRANDPA STOLE IT, IT'S SOMETHING VALUABLE!
I THINK...
I THINK I CAN DISABLE THIS ENERGY FIELD.
KHAJI, THIS IS UP TO YOU...!
C'MON, KHAJI, WORK WITH ME.
ALMOST THERE...
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
I... UH...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT KHAJI DID.

HMM?
A POWER FAILURE?
WAS THAT PART OF THE...?
I DON'T THINK SO...
THE FORCE FIELD!
GRACIAS, JAIME.
BABBOOOOOOOM!!!
WHAT THE HELL?
OH NO!


DYNASTES!
I THINK I JUST MADE A HUGE MISTAKE.
NAH, YOU DID GREAT!
YOU GAVE ME A PERFECT ESCAPE ROUTE, DUDE!
BE SURE TO THANK PACO AND BRENDA FOR ME!
NO! FADEAWAY!
NEVER SET FOOT HERE AGAIN!
YES, MA'AM!
GLADLY!
WHOA!
WHUMP
WE NEED TO TRANSFER TO

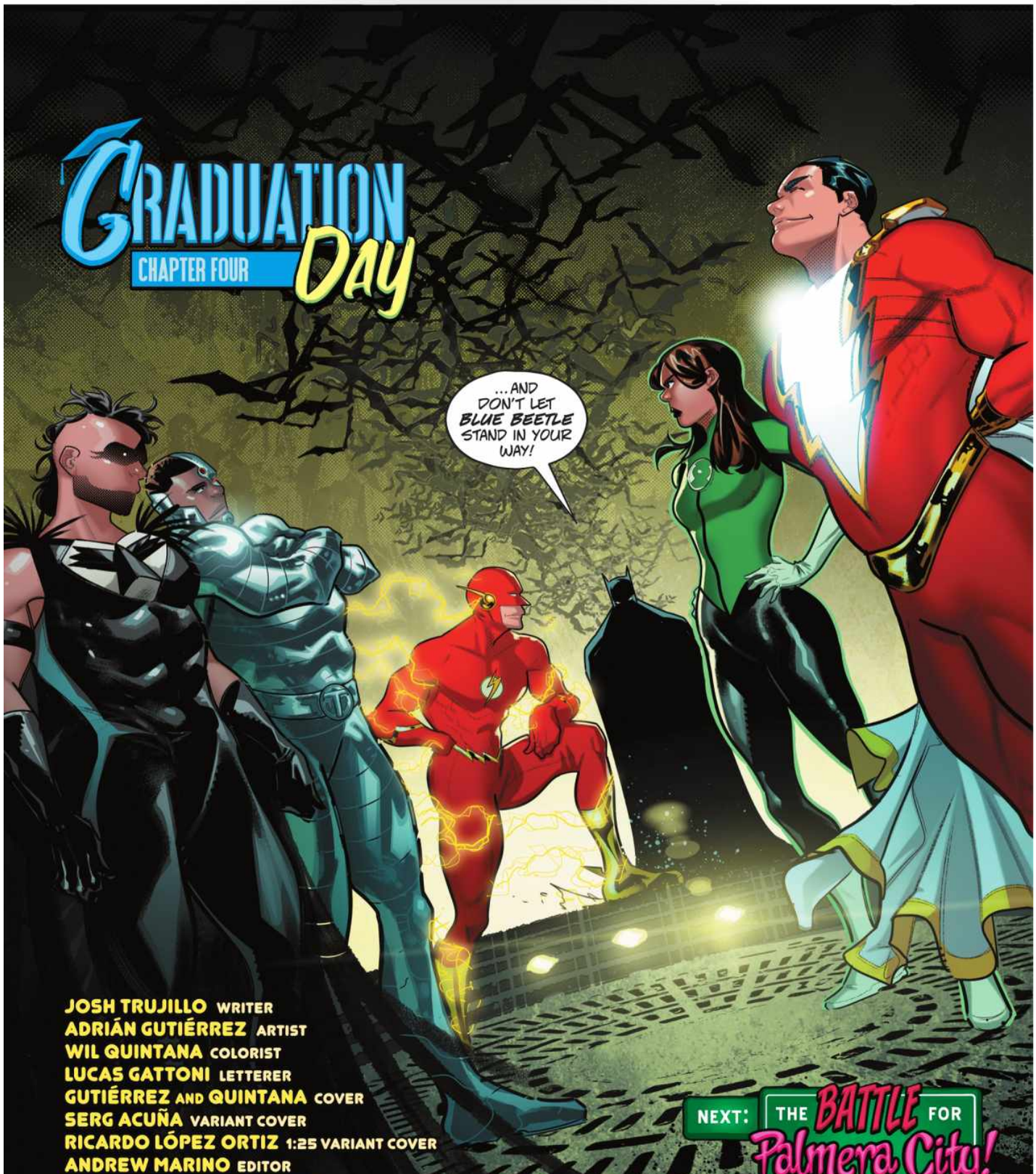
MY LAB! MY RESEARCH!
OUR ONLY KEY TO THE HORIZON!
AM I MISSING ANYTHING?
VICTORIA, TRY TO BREATHE...
I SAW YOUR ARMORY. IT'S FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF SCARY TECH!
YOU'RE BUYING YOUR STUFF FROM CRIMINALS, I KNOW IT!
OF COURSE I AM! IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THESE ITEMS ARE ONE OF A KIND AND VERY DANGEROUS! I AGREE THE SELLERS ARE LESS THAN REPUTABLE, BUT PAYING THEM OFF ENSURES THESE THINGS STAY OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS.
WOULD YOU RATHER I JUST BROKE IN AND STOLE PROPERTY LIKE A COMMANDO? I'M A SCIENTIST, NOT A SUPER-VILLAIN!
JAIME, YOU'RE IN WAY OVER YOUR HEAD HERE. I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D DO THIS.
AND NOW WE HAVE TWO BEETLES ON THE LOOSE.

JAIME! ARE YOU SAFE?
HE'S FINE, STARFIRE.
NO, HE'S NOT! DYNASTES HAS ESCAPED!
JAIME HERE JUST MADE THINGS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME, YOU, AND MAYBE THE ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM.
WHAT?!
I DIDN'T MEAN--
FADEAWAY...!
OH, JAIME.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL BATMAN, ARE YOU?
JAIME, THIS IS BATMAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...

"... HE ALREADY KNOWS!"
YOU HAVE YOUR MISSION. THERE ARE HOSTILE ALIENS IN PALMERA CITY, AND THEY'RE A TICKING TIME BOMB.
THE FATE OF THE PLANET DEPENDS ON YOU! MOVE FAST...

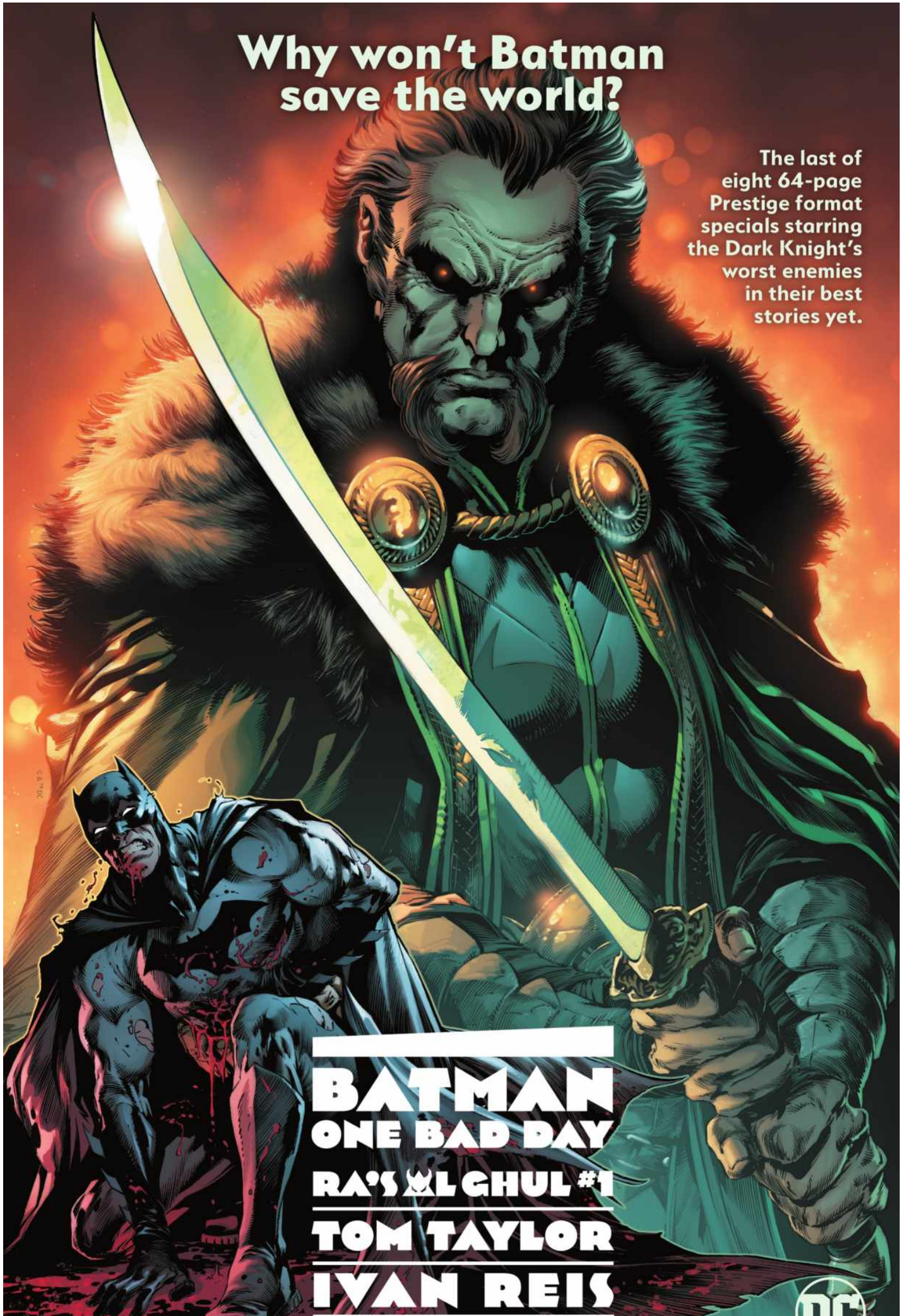
GRADUATION DAY

CHAPTER FOUR



JOSH TRUJILLO WRITER
ADRIÁN GUTIÉRREZ ARTIST
WIL QUINTANA COLORIST
LUCAS GATTONI LETTERER
GUTIÉRREZ AND QUINTANA COVER
SERG ACUÑA VARIANT COVER
RICARDO LÓPEZ ORTIZ 1:25 VARIANT COVER
ANDREW MARINO EDITOR

NEXT: THE BATTLE FOR Palmera City!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BATMAN
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DAWN OF DC

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

HARLEY QUINN

AN INTERVIEW WITH TINI HOWARD

Harley enters the Dawn of DC era in *Harley Quinn* #28 from writer Tini Howard and artist Sweeney Boo, ushering in a new status quo for the title character when a fight with Two-Face leads to a new (legally mandated) gig. Plus, each issue features a backup story, as a revolving cast of all-star talent presents Harley's wild—and in-continuity!—dreams.

How is this new era of *Harley Quinn* different from what we've seen from the character in the past?

This is going to be—at least at the start—a character piece first and foremost. We'll be exploring a bit of Harley's rich...*inner life*, let's say. We're trying to see how she approaches the kind of lovely normalcy lots of heroes aspire to: an apartment with her girlfriend, Ivy, her pets, a (court-ordered) job... more on that later. *[Laughs]*

Which aspects of Harley are you looking to explore at the start? Just by the very nature of the character, she lends herself to a wide variety of stories (and storytelling).

When you're mentally ill like Harley (or me—let's get that out of the way), there's a level of self-sabotage that can feel *cosmically hard to overcome.*

It's a struggle that I've always wanted to write about, and Harley just reminds me of one of my favorite ways to overcome a struggle: by laughing about it. I think a Harley book should be laugh-out-loud funny in a way that maybe sometimes makes you say "ow."

What kind of journey is Harley on in this opening arc?

Well, when I landed on "Girl in a Crisis" as a title it sort of wrapped it in a bow for us. She's trying to find what normalcy is for her, and what it'll take to get there.

What's most exciting about collaborating with Sweeney Boo on this series?

Oh my god, what's not? Sweeney is turning in truly beautiful pages. There's something so confident and fully realized in all of her panels—it really gives me the chance to go nuts. Bright, beautiful, kinetic, real, but also just leaning into the *Looney Tunes* madness of a Harley Quinn comic. I'm having the best time with Sweeney!

I gotta also tease: the backups for this book are *incredible*. Some real modern legends in the mix, doing super cool work.

DON'T MISS *HARLEY QUINN* #28, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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